Film Festival Alive for Year Five

The producers of the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival (PPLFF) are amazed that the festival is thriving into its fifth festival at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, September 17-19.. Producing a film festival is expensive and complicated and PPLFF has managed to survive with lots of support from the community. Individuals, businesses and organizations like P-Flag, by offering monetary and moral support, have recognized the value of this LGBT event in providing balance in our community. The result has been the continuation of a high quality LGBT film festival in Colorado Springs. Our fifth festival is no exception. We have a great line-up of films and opportunities to connect with other supporters to help keep our community strong.

When we were beginning PPLFF, five year ago, we went to a P-Flag gathering and received a warm reception. Parents lamented at how they wished there had existed positive and complex images for their children when they were growing up. P-Flag provided more than a generous donation, it gave us validation and confidence to pursue our efforts to have a viable LGBT film festival here.

Our fifth festival is well on its way to being another success. We have booked a diverse and informative line-up of films. In response to our audience's evaluations of the festival, we have increased the number of comedies and romances. We urge all P-Flag members to join the Opening Reception—Celebrating 5 Years with welcoming remarks by Mary Lou Makepeace--a scintillating short, *Circulating Loves* and charming Irish feature, *Goldfish Memory*, with a diverse ensemble cast that will keep you laughing while sightseeing in Dublin.

Over the five years of our festival, LGBT people have moved from the shadows to the mainstream in our quest for equal rights. Who would have thought five years ago that Canada, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and California would be marrying gays and lesbians and moving us toward full equality?. This year in addition to the romantic comedies of *Goldfish Memory, Eating Out, Mango Kiss, and Straight Jacket*, PPLFF will present the award-winning documentary, *Tying the Knot*, which outlines the history of marriage and the quest for long-term gay and lesbian partners to receive the rights accorded heterosexuals in more than 1000 laws.

As the genre of LBGT films grows more sophisticated, filmmakers are exploring in-depth our history. We found a fascinating film that presents a four hundred year old true story complete with costumes. *Proteus*, a beautiful period piece about a South African prison island, is a film worth catching on Saturday night. For opera lovers or those interested in a good film, we have booked Franco Zefferelli's *Callas Forever*, the story of Maria Callas's later years and her relationship with her homosexual manager played by Jeremy Irons to be screened on Sunday..

A complete description and schedule of our entire program for the 5th annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival can be found at our web site www.pplff.org or call 719-38-MOVIE and we'll send you a brochure. We are offering a Full Festival Pass and Half Passes for the reasonable prices(see our web site or go to KRCC, Toons or Wag N'Wash) Individual tickets for film programs (short and feature) may be purchased at the Fine Arts Center after Labor Day. We thank P-Flag for its contributions and encouragement. With your continuing interest, we expect to have this fine film festival in Colorado Springs for many years to come.

----------*Alma Cremonesi*, a founder and coordinator of PPLFF